



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 53, Issue 1

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Jan. 7, 2005

HMXS puts 'family first'

Squadron donates gifts to community children

By Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan
Public Affairs

Sixty-three local area children enjoyed a merrier Christmas this year thanks to the generosity of Airmen assigned to the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron.

The squadron was responsible for raising enough money to purchase gifts for local area children identified by the Family First Network of Lakewood Center, a social services state contractor.

With wish lists in hand, about a dozen squadron members, some assisted by family members, headed out to buy presents for the children Dec. 22.

"We had \$7,300 from donations given by members of the unit, enabling us to spend \$100 per wish list," said Staff Sgt. Troy Main.

To assist with the event, many unit members volunteered to take on the task of shopping for items identified on each child's wish list.

"Since I'm trying to adopt, this event is very special to me," said Master Sgt. Doris Phillips. "I have seen the children's pictures, and my heart just goes out to them. I remember when I was a child, and how much it meant to have even just one gift. I just



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

Staff Sgt. Michael Bailey, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, purchases a toy horse Dec. 22 for a child in the local community, identified by the Family First Network.

See **DONATIONS**, Page 5

Talon II experiences landing mishap

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

A forward deployed MC-130 Combat Talon II assigned to the 15th Special Operations Squadron suffered a landing mishap at an undisclosed airbase in Northern Iraq Dec. 29.

None of the 11 crewmembers and passengers on board the aircraft were killed

as a result of the incident.

The aircraft was conducting a regularly scheduled mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism, when the incident occurred.

While the cause of the incident is currently unknown and being investigated, there's no evidence to suggest it was caused by hostile fire.

The MC-130 Combat Talon II provides infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Operations forces and equipment in hostile or denied territory.

A secondary mission area may include psychological operations. A typical Talon II crew consists of two pilots, a navigator, an electronic warfare officer, a flight engineer and two loadmasters.

Lance P. Sijan

Hurlburt Airmen receive AF award for leadership skills

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Two Hurlburt Field Airmen were amongst the recipients for the 2004 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award.

Maj. Joseph Michalek, 20th Special Operations Squadron, received the award for the junior officer category, and Tech. Sgt. Matthew Fader, 15th Special Operations Squadron, was the recipient for the junior enlisted category.

The Sijan award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities.

"The squadron leadership at the 20th (Special Operations Squadron) has been outstanding," Major Michalek said, "and the only reason I get to receive this award is for all the opportunities and mentorship the squadron provides me."

According to Major Michalek's award package, "he utilized his vast tactical expertise to prepare six crews under his command for sustained combat deployments in one of the most complex integrated air defense systems in the world. He also spearheaded the move from a deployed staging area to Baghdad to enable his forces to become more operationally relevant during the initial counterinsurgency operations in Iraq."

"Upon arrival at Baghdad International Airport, Major

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Weather
forecast

Friday - Partly cloudy; High 70, Low 55
Saturday - Showers; High 73, Low 62
Sunday - Sunny; High 70, Low 57

www.hurlburt.af.mil

Open Line...

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community.

I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, call 884-OPEN (6736) or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Be sure to include your name, unit and telephone

number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or a phone call.

However, remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.



Col.
O.G. Mannon

An act of kindness

Comment: On Dec. 10, about 20 uniformed Hurlburt Field members were attending a luncheon at the Olive Garden on U.S. Highway 98, and there were other uniformed members also eating...as one of the members of our party tried to obtain their bill, the waiter said, "Your bill has been paid along with the rest of your party and all the others in uniform as well."

When asked who paid for it, the waiter replied,

"The person would like to remain anonymous."

When our party was told of the story, we were in awe...delighted and feeling very appreciated.

Even as this story is being forwarded...fond thoughts are surfacing for this person and all those who would think of and act on doing such a wonderful deed.

In speaking for all of us - those in the restaurant and others not there that day - we thank and truly appreciate this act of kindness and appreciation. Some of us will never forget! Thank you.

Accident proves importance of seatbelts

By Maj. William Woodall
AFSOC

Most parents with teenagers may relate to the following story.

It all began when my son Tristan and his best friend Cory planned a trip to Atlanta, Ga., to see their favorite band perform in a concert. Tickets were purchased, and they had even made arrangements to stay with a friend.

The night before they departed, we all sat down and planned the route and instructed Tristan to call us once they made it to Montgomery, Ala., and finally into Atlanta.

Before they departed the next morning, my wife and I prayed with them to ask for God's protection on them.

Tristan called around 9:30 a.m. to let us know they had arrived in Montgomery and were stopping for breakfast. He then called later to let us know they had arrived to their friend's home in Atlanta.

The concert was an adventure for both, so my wife and I were excited for them.

The next call we received wasn't nearly as pleasant. My son called about 3:30 p.m. and said, "Dad, I have some bad news. Cory's car is totaled."

My first thought was that he was kidding because he likes to joke around a lot. But, there was something about the tone of his

voice that told me he was serious.

He explained that they were in the emergency room after a serious car accident.

Tristan, Cory and their friend Jennifer were on their way to get ice cream before attending the concert. As they went around a sharp curve, a large truck was approaching around the curve, and to avoid hitting the truck, they moved over to give it some room. But, in doing so, they hit some gravel and the car went out of control, flipped five or six times, hit a telephone pole and a tree before coming to a stop.

Cory's car, a T-top Firebird, now had no T-top and no rear windshield, and it was in complete shambles. Tristan said he thought they were gone as the car was rolling over and over.

But there was one crucial thing that saved them all: seatbelts. All three of them were wearing their seatbelts, and Tristan admits he wasn't going to put his on at first because he was in the back seat, but something prompted him to do so anyway.

Since they were Air Force family members, they had heard over and over again the importance of wearing a seatbelt while driving.



Cartoon by Master Sgt. W.C. Pope

Air Force safety training, plus mom and dad's persistence definitely paid off in this situation.

The police later told Tristan they shouldn't have made it through the accident based on the looks of the crash. Cory suffered a gash to his head and Tristan and Jennifer received a few bumps, bruises and sore muscles.

We're so grateful they were all wearing their seatbelts. Just six months earlier, we received a similar call from my wife's sister informing us their youngest son had been in a car accident in Los Angeles, Calif., but he wasn't wearing his seatbelt. He was thrown from his sport utility vehicle and later died from his injuries.

This has been an experience none of us will soon forget. Most importantly, we celebrated another holiday season with our children, because they listened to critical safety advice.

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Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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DUI Tracker

Dec. 31-Jan. 6: 0 DUIs

This year: 0

DUIs for 2004: 42

Last DUI: 16th Medical Operations Squadron,
Dec. 12

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 13

16th OG...34

16th MXG...58

16th MSG...42

16th MDG...24

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of Jan. 6.



Hurlburt Airman receives holiday call from president

By Master Sgt.
David Reagan
332nd AEW Public Affairs

TIKRIT, Iraq - As other members of his unit went busily about their business readying vehicles, equipment and weapons to provide protection for Army sustainment convoys that would soon be crisscrossing Iraq, one Airman from the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Hurlburt Field, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, waited patiently by the phone.

At precisely 4:35 p.m. Christmas Eve the phone rang in the tactical operations center of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Detachment 1058, and within seconds of answering, a warm glow permeated the face of the 16th IRS Airman, a member of a gun

truck detachment based at forward a deployed location.

As his voice sprang to life and his stature increased tenfold in a matter of moments, the person at the other end of the line began to speak.

It was President George Bush calling from his retreat at Camp David, Md. to thank the Airman for his selfless service to the nation and to wish him a safe and happy holiday season. Silence then overtook the room as other detachment personnel struggled to hear the conversation in the confined, computer-lined operations center in the old, battle-weary building.

President Bush wished the Airman a Merry Christmas, and said he heard the Airman was a hard-charger. Later, the president went on to inquire if the Airman from the Air Force Special Operations Com-



A 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron Airman speaks to the president Christmas Day.

mand was being well taken care of during his deployment.

"Yes, Mr. President, we are all being well taken care of," was the proud reply as he grinned ear-to-ear.

President Bush then asked how long the Airman's unit had been deployed.

"We're just over the three-month point in our unit's six-month deploy-

ment," he said.

The Airman went on to congratulate the president on his recent re-election and later asked for a favor on behalf of the other personnel in the detachment.

He asked if it was possible to send a unit picture of the 1058th to the White House to have the president sign it as a memento for all the detachment personnel. His request was gladly accepted.

A short time later, the Airman wished the president a Merry Christmas before they said their good-byes. A White House aide then returned to the line and gathered the information to ensure the detachment picture was signed for the group.

Although the call lasted only two-and-a-half minutes, the Airman said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and an honor to speak to the president.

Spotlight on...

Senior Airman Todd Michael

Organization/Duty title:

16th Logistics Readiness Squadron/Special Purpose Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice

Hometown: Hicks, La.

Hobbies: Playing video games and deep-sea fishing

Contribution to the mission:

Airman Michael completed scheduled maintenance of a high-priority 15-ton crane in two hours, beating the industry by 40 percent and ensuring the asset was ready for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He also rebuilt a water pump on a distribution truck, saving the Air Force \$3,000.

Airman Michael showed great initiative and leadership during a detail clean up after Hurricane Ivan. He served in the crucial removal of 38,000 pounds of storm debris around base. His hard work improved the overall appearance and safety for base housing residents.

Editor's note: The Commando highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

Operation Homecoming preserves wartime experiences

By 2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
Public Affairs

Next week, aspiring writers at Hurlburt Field will have the opportunity to hone their skills during Operation Homecoming.

The two-day workshop, hosted in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and 10 to noon Wednesday at the base chapel. A reception is also planned from 5 to 6:30 Tuesday.

According to the NEA, the goal of the program, which began in April 2004, is to document and preserve the wartime experiences of military members and their families.

Each workshop is led by distinguished writers; the Hurlburt Field workshops will be led by Barry Hannah and Wyatt Prunty.

Both military members and their

adult family members are invited to attend the workshops. Anyone wishing to attend must fill out a registration form by close of business today. Forms are available online at www.commandolibrary.com, or by calling 884-1435.

In addition to the workshops, the NEA has issued an open-call for submissions. Military personnel who served after Sept. 11, 2001, and their families are invited to submit their products to the NEA through March 31, 2005.

Items may include poems, short stories, essays, letters and other writings relating to military service. All submissions will

be preserved in a federal archive, and the best writings will be featured in the Operation Homecoming anthology to be distributed for free to military installations, schools and libraries. However, it's asked that 16th Special Operations personnel submitting items follow the appropriate public affairs guidance below.

For more information, visit www.operationhomecoming.org.

Literary submission guidelines

All Operation Homecoming submissions written by 16th Special Operations Wing military personnel will be forwarded to the 16th SOW Public Affairs office for the purpose of conducting a security review prior to being submitted to the NEA for publication consideration. Doing so will prevent the release of classified and/or sensitive information while allowing our stories to be told. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Capt. Tom Knowles, 884-6094.

A memorial service for retired Senior Master Sgt. Carlos Christian will be held at the Air Park at 1 p.m. tomorrow. Sergeant Christian, who witnessed the birth of Special Operations as a member of the 1st Air Commando Group in the China-Burma-India theater, passed away Dec. 14, 2004. In October, Sergeant Christian shared his experiences with more than 200 Hurlburt Field Airmen during the kick-off of the Through the Eyes of a Commando lecture series. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the base chapel. For more information, call Capt. Kerya Reyes at 884-4089.



Base motorcycle club revs up camaraderie, awareness

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

They meet for lunch each Friday and get together a few times a month for group rides throughout the local area.

Hurlburt Field's motorcycle club, The Sentinels of Freedom, strives to establish and maintain a spirit of camaraderie and esprit de corps that enhances the prestige and riding experience of all motorcycle riders, encourage ongoing rider education and skills development, increase public awareness and reduce motorcycle mishaps. The club conducts itself in a manner that provides equal opportunity and treatment for all motorcyclists, regardless of motorcycle make, model or engine size. The club's motto is: We ride for those who can not.

That's exactly what the club did recently on group rides to Blackwater State Forest, nearly 80 miles away and on a 90-mile ride into Alabama.

Clay McCutchan, Air Force Special Operations Command historian, hosted the group at McCutchan Airfield, his home in Milton, during a break enroute to Blackwater State Forest.

The rides are used as training for group riding for those who might not have much group riding experience or for members who just want to go along for the camaraderie.

"We try to have fun and promote safety at every given opportunity," said Master Sgt. Guy Alexander, 16th Special Operations Wing Safety Office and club president.

"The ride to Blackwater Forest



turned out to be a great event that provided an opportunity for us all to learn and share riding experiences with one another."

The club also uses its time together to brief on motorcycle maintenance, what to pack for long-distance rides and other riding tips and techniques.

Last year one of the biggest rides the club participated in was the Ride to the Wall in the nation's capitol as part of the annual Memorial Day Rolling Thunder procession.

About 15 motorcyclists from Hurlburt Field made the trip to Washington D.C., where they joined an estimated 400,000 other motorcyclists to pay tribute to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall.

"We're hoping to make the jour-

ney once again this summer and to have more people represent Hurlburt Field," Sergeant Alexander said. "Our club is constantly growing with about 75 members now and it would be great to see more people attend this event if approved."

Club members are also conscious about giving back to the community. Members will be participating in the American Legions Ride Jan. 15 to help raise donations for a young boy to receive cancer treatment.

More events are planned throughout the year.

For more information, call Sergeant Alexander at 884-5008 or reach him by e-mail at: guy.alexander@hurlburt.af.mil. Vice president Tech. Sgt. Tanya Stevens can also be contacted for more information at 884-5573, or at: tanya.stevens@hurlburt.af.mil.

Legal documents simplify deployment

By Lt. Col. David Sessions
919th SOW Judge Advocate

Deployments have become a familiar occurrence for military members everywhere, including Reservists.

The manner in which we prepare for those deployments can make life easier or more difficult.

One very important item you should consider is whether you need a power of attorney to assist you and your family with the impact of your absence.

A power of attorney gives someone else the authority to act for you. There are two basic kinds of power of attorneys. These are the general power of attorney and the special power of attorney.

A general power of attorney should only be given to someone you trust completely, as it allows that person to do anything that you could do yourself. For example, they could sell your property or make purchases on credit using your name. Although you might be able to sue the person to whom you have given the power, you wouldn't be able to recover your property or avoid having to make future payments on the debt.

A special power of attorney, on the other hand, strictly limits the person to a specific area or task. For example, a special power of attorney would allow a person to sell your car at a specified price or conduct a transaction involving real

estate. Many members with minor children are required by the Air Force to maintain current power of attorneys for dependent child care responsibilities. These power of attorneys allow a named individual to take required actions for the safety, health and welfare of children in the parent's absence. This can cover anything from obtaining medical care to signing approvals for school field trips.

Certain areas of military life require very specific language in a special power of attorney. For example, military pay issues can only be resolved for you by someone with a special power of attorney drafted for that purpose. Likewise, a person needs to have a special power of attorney to arrange for movement of household goods for you in your absence.

However, bear in mind that a business or individual isn't required to accept a power of attorney. They can refuse to recognize the power of attorney and reserve the right to deal only with you yourself. Many financial institutions take this approach. If you contemplate a deployment or absence, you should check with your bank or credit union to ensure they will honor your power of attorney.

If you have questions, or need a power of attorney, contact your legal office. We will ask you to fill out a request form and then prepare the power of attorney for your signature.

Lecture series unfolding:

'Through the Eyes of a Commando' Part II

By 2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
Public Affairs

The second installment of the "Through the Eyes of a Commando" living history lecture series will take place Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the base theater. Retired Brigadier General Harry "Heinie" Aderholt and retired Lt. Col. John Napier III will give presentations detailing special air missions during the Korean War.

General Aderholt received his commission into the Army Air Corps in May 1943. During the Korean War, he commanded a Special Air Warfare Detachment of the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron.

Later in his career, General Aderholt again contributed to the development of Special Operations as the commander of the 1095th Operations Evaluation Training Group in Okinawa. In 1964, he served as the vice commander and then commander of the 1st Air Commando Wing here. His Special Operations expertise was called upon again in 1966 to organize and command the 56th Air Commando Wing at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base. General Aderholt retired from active duty in 1972.

After enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in 1942, Colonel Napier returned to college and received his commission into the United States Air Force in 1949.

During the Korean War, he was an intelligence officer, first in Strategic Air Command and then the Air Resupply and Communications Service, a precedent to Air Force Special Operations Command. In 1963 Colonel Napier and four other officers established the USAF Counterinsurgency Course, which today is known as the USAF Special Operations School.

In 1971, he shared his knowledge of Air Force Special Operations with other officers as an Air War College instructor. He later retired from active duty in 1977.

For more information on the "Commando" lecture series, call Capt. Kerya Reyes at 884-4089.

W-2's: How much tax credit will you receive in 2005?

ARLINGTON, Va. - The 2004 W-2 tax forms for military members will now report pay earned while serving in a combat zone tax exclusion area. This information helps them determine their eligibility for the earned income tax credit and child tax credit.

The combat pay information will be listed separately in Block 14 of the W-2 and won't be included with taxable wage information in Block 1. Tax credit qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay earned while in a combat zone. This information on 2004 W-2s will aid in determining whether a service member meets the Internal Revenue Service requirements for tax credit and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each situation.

The 2004 W-2s will be available mid- to late-January. Visit myPay online at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> to check availability. (AFPN)

DONATIONS, Continued from Page 1

love the chance to give back and make a wish come true for the children."

The 16th HMXS volunteers spent approximately \$9,300 that day and an additional \$400 was spent Dec. 23 to help a family purchase a Christmas tree, decorations, food and toys.

SIJAN, Continued from Page 1

Michalek formulated a plan supporting joint and combined Special Operations throughout Iraq in response to ever-changing battlescape, and ensured austere working/living conditions and lack of local support agencies wouldn't impede mission readiness."

According to his award package, "Sergeant Fader executed perilous missions under fire inside Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He flew 92 combat sorties, delivered 231 passengers and 510,000 pounds of cargo, airdropped 250,000 leaflets and moved 30 vehicles in support of OIF.

"Sergeant Fader's outstanding airmanship

"This is the first time I have ever actually bought things for a helpful cause," said Lee Thomas, 16th HMXS commander's secretary. "I'm enjoying the opportunity to help the children."

Under the supervision of Family First Network, Sergeant Main and the other squadron volunteers delivered the toys to the children that same afternoon.

brought elite Special Forces to bear against the enemy, paving the road to democracy in Iraq. As standardization and evaluation superintendent, Sergeant Fader expertly directed a \$1.3 billion functional check flight program for 10 MC-30H Combat Talon II's. His combat readiness, professionalism and dedication set the standard for all unit flight engineers."

"I was truly surprised when Col. O.G. Mannon (16th Special Operations Wing commander) said I was the Lance P. Sijan winner for the Air Force," Sergeant Fader said. "I would like to say thanks to all who helped me achieve this honor - they know who they are."

The awards will be presented at a later date.

ARMED FORCES COMM INC
COMMANDO/ HOMELA
571414
5 X 7.00

Studying key to earning next stripe

By Senior Airman Becky LaRaia
43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.

— Enlisted promotion hopefuls will need to prepare their study materials as the next testing cycle is on the horizon.

Testing for promotion to technical sergeant and master sergeant will be held throughout the Air Force Feb. 15 through March 31, and testing for staff sergeant will be held May 1 through May 31.

Taking the time to study is key to making that next stripe, said Master Sgt. David Lawrence, 43rd Airlift Wing career assistance adviser here. "That's probably the number one thing that people miss out on. They think time-in-grade or time-in-service is going to carry them over, and

they're going to get promoted automatically."

According to Sergeant Lawrence, some test takers don't give equal attention to both the Specialty Knowledge Test and the Promotion Fitness Examination when studying.

"Each is worth 100 points, so you've really got to give emphasis to both," he said. "Some people are under the perception that they know their job really well, and they don't need to study the SKT. For the most part, you don't know your job by the book as well as you might think you do."

As an aerospace ground equipment mechanic, Sergeant Lawrence said he only worked about 20 percent of the equipment he would have been tested on.

Airmen are responsible for ensur-

ing their records are updated at the military personnel flight before they test. Sergeant Lawrence added that updated records can be critical in the game of making rank.

"A medal can be worth one, three or even five points, and you see a lot of people who miss (making rank) by less than a point or even a couple of points."

Although testing is emphasized, Sergeant Lawrence said merit is incorporated as well.

"Nearly half of your promotion score could be based on merit."

The Weighted Airman Promotion System is made up of six different categories. Airmen can receive up to 135 points for enlisted performance reports, 100 points for their SKT, 100 points for their PFE, 25 points for decorations and awards, 60 points for time-in-grade and 40 points for time-in-service.

"Testing is just making sure that you know what you need to know before moving on to the next rank," said Sergeant Lawrence. "The Air Force promotes on potential. Each test gets a little more difficult, and it's because they're not testing you on what you're already doing, but what you need to be doing when you get to that next rank."

Sergeant Lawrence encouraged first-time testers to take advantage of the current high promotion rates.

"When I was at four years in service, I was just sewing on (E-4). Times have changed, and that opportunity is there, if (people) really prepare for it. There's no reason why people can't get promoted on their first try."

Selections for technical and master sergeant will be released the first Thursday in June, and selections to staff sergeant will be released the first Wednesday in August.

MILITARY MEDIA
COMMANDO/ P AND
571449
5 X 7.00

Headquarters AFSOC receives systems assistance from contracting agencies

Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field announces award of the Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance Contract to the following contractors:

Blackhawk Management Corporation
1335 Regents Park Drive, Suite 130
Houston, TX 77058
(850) 863-8600

TCS Design & Management Services, Inc.
324 Corder Road
Warner Robins, GA 31088
(850) 243-6028/6017

WinITec Arrowmaker, Inc.
12821 Old Fort Road, Suite 302
Fort Washington, MD 20744
(850) 609-7904

The SEITA III contract is a \$75,000,000 indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract to provide advisory and assistance services to HQ AFSOC from Dec. 16, 2004 through Dec. 15, 2009.

OWC
COMMANDO/ OWC
567252
2 X 7.00

Martin Luther King

Service planned to honor former civil rights leader

A Martin Luther King commemorative observance will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the base chapel.

The guest speaker will be Will Ford III.

Mr. Ford is a prayer intercessor in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. A graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta and Emmaus Road Ministry School in Euless, Texas, he's a



Will Ford III

co-founder of Hilkiah Ministries.

late at night to muffle their voices.

Refreshments will be provided after the service in the chapel annex. For details, call 884-7795.

Week in History

The following events occurred this week in military history:

Jan. 3, 1966 – The XB-70 flew for 3 minutes at 2,000 miles per hour (Mach 3+).

Jan. 4, 1957 – The Military Air Transport Service completed "Operation Safe Haven" bringing 10,000 refugees to the United States.

Jan. 5, 1943 – Allied Air Forces in Africa activated under Maj. Gen. Carl Spaatz.

Jan. 6, 1944 – Maj. Gen. James Doolittle assumed command of the 8th Air Force.



Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr.

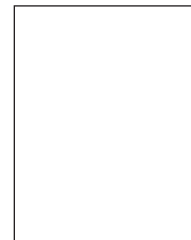
Jan. 7, 1949 – The X-1 climbed to 23,000 feet at a record rate of 13,000 feet per minute.

Jan. 8, 1964 – The Air Force Cross was posthumously awarded to Maj. Rudolf Anderson, Jr., the only casualty of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

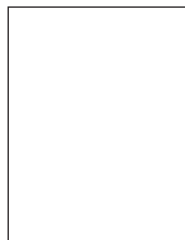
Look who's talking: *What's your new year's resolution?*



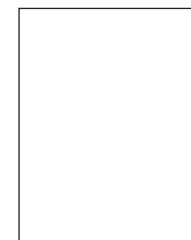
"To enjoy and appreciate life every day."



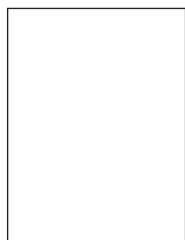
"To finish all the projects I started last year."



"To get in better shape."



"To spend more time with my family and do more of what my wife asks me to do."



"To grow closer to the Lord and do more mission service for Him."

Stop by the public affairs office for your chance to be featured in an upcoming 'Look who's talking' column. The office is located in Building 90210, Ste. 326. For more information, call 884-7464.

Going up

Rates rise for some FEGLI participants

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - Some Air Force Federal Employees Group Life Insurance participants with Option B coverage will see an increase in premiums in January.

In September 2002, the Office of Personnel Management announced additional age bands for Option B, and that the premiums for these age bands would be phased in over a three-year period.

Premium rates for Phase I were effective Jan. 12, 2003 and Phase II began Jan. 11, 2004.

Now, Phase III - which affects employees age 65 and over - will be applied at the beginning of the first full pay period in 2005, which for most Air Force-serviced civilian employees will be Sunday. The increased premium will be reflected in the Jan. 28 leave and earnings statement.

According to the Office of Personnel Management, today's generally lower mortality rates are the reason for the FEGLI premium changes that began in 2003.

A word of caution however, Option B coverage reduced or canceled prior to retirement can't be picked back up after retirement, warns Janet Thomas of the civilian Benefits and Entitlements Service Team here at the Air Force Personnel Center.

The new rates can be found on the OPM FEGLI Web page at www.opm.gov/insure/life. Employees planning to retire soon should check out the monthly rate column, according to Ms. Thomas.

Employees may cancel (waive) or decrease Option B coverage at any time, but should remember that opportunities to pick it up again are limited. To avoid paying the increased premium, an election to decrease or waive Option B should be submitted no later than Saturday via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm, or the BEST automated phone system: (800) 616-3775 for employees in the United States (press 2 for civilian, then 2 for benefits and entitlements and follow the prompts).

Overseas employees will dial a toll-free AT&T direct access number for the country they're in, then (800) 997-2378. Direct access numbers can be found at http://www.att.com/business_traveler/guides_and_access/dialing_instr.html#outside.

Additional information can be found on the BEST homepage at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/fegli.htm.

Benefits and Entitlements Service Team counselors are available to answer questions weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time at the above numbers. Hearing impaired employees may call the TDD line at (800) 382-0893, commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio.

SERE arch, beret implementation

During the 96th Air Force Uniform Board in June 2003, Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, approved the wear of a pewter green beret and a Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape Specialist arch worn on all uniform combinations as of Dec. 7.

Blouse trousers with combat

boots with all uniform combinations except semi-formal and mess dress uniforms. Center the SERE arch one half inch below the shoulder seam on the left arm of utility uniforms.

Executive order makes 2005 pay tables official

ARLINGTON, Va. - President George Bush signed an executive order Dec. 30 making the 2005 military and civilian pay tables official.

For pay rates, visit the following:

■ Military Pay Tables: www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay/

■ Civilian Pay Tables: www.opm.gov/oca/05tables/index.asp/

oca/05tables/index.asp/

Congress approved an average raise of 3.5 percent for military service members, and the president's order provided for an across-the-board increase of 2.5 percent in base pay for the Foreign Service and certain pay scales used by the Department of Veterans Affairs. (AFPN)

**BODY-B-HEALTHY
COMMANDO/ HEALTH
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**RHINO LININGS OF OKALOOSA
COMMANDO/ RHINO
566802
3 X 7.00**

Pins, wins, pee wees: Duke Field Reservists coach youth wrestlers

By 2nd Lt. Marnee Carlson
919th SOW Public Affairs

The two boys cautiously circled each other. Suddenly, seeing an opportunity, one boy sprang into action swiftly taking his opponent down in an attempt to pin him to the mat. After a few minutes of intense wrestling, the referee called a short break.

The coach, Dave Zoppina, a technical sergeant at the 719th Maintenance Squadron, called the young wrestler, his son Christian, over to the side of the mat. Zoppina grabbed his 8-year-old son and quickly demonstrated the correct way to perform a wrestling move.

Christian went back to the mat, pinned his opponent, and jumped up smiling.

It was one of many pins and wins for the 24 team members of the Lil' Dawgs during a Quad meet Nov. 20 at Crestview High School. In all, six teams from Northwest Florida competed at the Pee Wee wrestling tournament.

Zoppina has wrestled since age 5 and has two boys, ages 6 and 8. The older one wrestles.

"The kids love it," he said. "It is a great sport. It builds character, discipline and sportsmanship."

For the past two years, Zoppina and William Stapp, a staff sergeant at the 919th Security Forces Squadron, have been coaching the Lil' Dawgs, who vary from ages 3 to 15. The Quad meet was the first of the season, which runs from November through April. Each month there are about

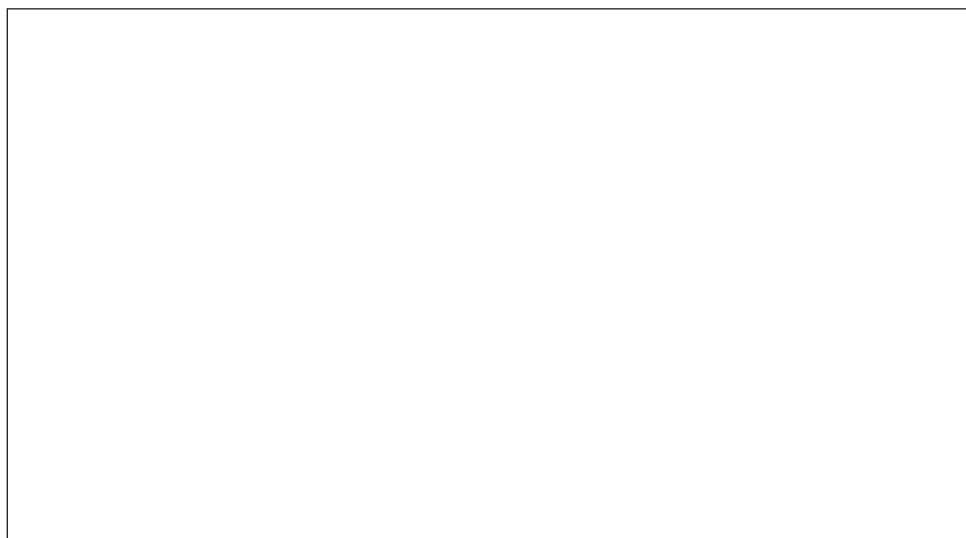


Photo by 2nd Lt. Marnee Carlson

Josh Zoppina, son of Coach Dave Zoppina, 719th Maintenance Squadron, attempts to pin an opponent for a Lil' Dawgs wrestling win during a recent Crestview High School Quad meet.

two meets, said Stapp.

Three of Stapp's boys are also part of the team and competed at the Quad meet. His boys are ages 3, 7 and 9.

"My kids really enjoy it and that is one of the reasons I coach," he said. "My oldest boy likes it because he is constantly learning new moves, and my youngest boy said he enjoys it because he gets to slam people into the mat."

There are other reasons why Stapp decided to coach.

"I wrestled for one year in school and also competed in Tae Kwon Do," he said. "I loved it. I always knew that I'd get my kids into wrestling or Tae Kwon Do."

The decision turned out to be an easy one. Stapp and Zoppina are friends and their boys go to the same school and church and would always

play together.

"The kids were always running around wrestling with each other so we decided to start a team," said Stapp.

Stapp and Zoppina worked with Jeff Fowler, Crestview High School Wrestling Coach, to start their team.

"In this area there isn't much of a wrestling program until high school," said Stapp. "Jeff Fowler thought that a pee wee wrestling program would be a great way to prepare young wrestlers for high school wrestling."

Stapp and Zoppina have a few more years before their children attend high school. In the meantime, they said they plan to keep coaching and are always looking for help. For more information, people may contact Staff Sgt. Stapp at 883-6495 or Tech. Sgt. Zoppina at 882-2341.



Men's softball

Tryouts for the 2005 Hurlburt Field men's varsity softball team will begin Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. at the main softball fields behind the Aderholt Fitness Center.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Chuck Shepherd at 884-5774 or Senior Master Sgt. Scott Bowen at 884-5802.

Baseball volunteers

An orientation for volunteers, who would like to help with the Challenger Division of Little League Baseball, will be held Saturday and Jan. 15 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Niceville City Hall.

The program is for mentally and physically disabled youth to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment, which is structured to their abilities. For more information, call 884-1533.

Travis Deutman (72), Eglin Air Force Base, stays close on the heels of Levi Severson (54), Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and Mike Lilly (6), 505th Command and Control Wing, during the 10-Mile Challenge, which began and ended at the Aderholt Fitness Center, Dec. 11.

'Runners, take your marks'

By Staff Sgt. Rosa Tamara
16th SVS

The 12th Annual 10-Mile challenge went off without a hitch again this year.

Approximately 55 participants met at the Aderholt Fitness Center Dec. 11 to brave the 55-degree temperature and howly wind in hopes of bringing home the win.

Although runners, who ranged from age 21 to 62, pumped out the 10-miler, a few stood out above the rest.

Levi Severson of Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., took the first place overall trophy and the Hurlburt Field base

record with him, finishing the race in 55:00 minutes.

The previous record was held by Jim Eastman with a time of 57:32 in December 2001.

Travis Deutman, Eglin Air Force Base, came in second place overall with 57:38 and took the first place trophy in the age 20-29 category.

Mike Lilly, 505th Command and Control Wing, came in third place overall, finishing in 57:53. He also took the first place trophy in age 30-39 category.

For more information about the race, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa

Military

AFSA meeting

Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeants Association, will hold a general membership meeting Jan. 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the enlisted hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821 or Senior Master Sgt. Bill Ogden at 884-4957.

Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Field Chapel will host Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. Airmen can bring one article of clean clothing to have stripes, patches or nametags sewn on or have repairs made, while enjoying a free home-cooked meal. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 315-4746.

Palace Chase

The Air Force Reserve is accepting applications for the Palace Chase Force Shaping program. Members who are considering leaving active duty early can transfer into the Air Force Reserve without paying back bonuses, and keep many of the same benefits.

Opportunities are available in the United States and overseas. Members can also retrain into a different career field. For more information, call Master Sgt. Angela Edwards at 884-2656 or visit <https://intranet.eglin.af.mil/AFReserve/hurlburt.htm>.

NY Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 13CX1, 1NOX1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3A/B, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A752, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 2T2X1, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X3, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 3S0X1, 4A0X1, 4D0X1, X4N0X1 and 6C0X1. For more information, call Master Sgt. Reeves at DSN: 344-2457.

Community

HOSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses Club monthly luncheon is set for 10:30 a.m. Jan. 20 at the Sundside club. The theme is: fitness and nutritional education; there will be a healthy lunch and a brief talk about nutrition. Guests will also be able to try Thai Chi, Yoga and Pilates exercises. Casual dress is encouraged. The menu includes a duo of healthy salads, with prices varying from \$8/\$10 for members; \$10/\$12 for non-members. Childcare will be provided at the club by the child development center. Cost is \$3/hour per child; \$2.50/hour for each additional child. Reservations must be made by Jan. 14; call Karin Heaton at 515-0371.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in joining the Hurlburt Toastmasters club should come to the regular meetings each Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in Classroom J of Building 90220. Toastmasters can help individuals improve speaking, listening and leadership skills through a mutually-supportive and positive learning environment. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-3050.

CPTS manning

The 16th Comptroller Squadron will be minimally

manned Monday through Jan. 14, due to a field-training exercise. Accounting and finance customers may experience extended waiting times. All service members who have access to the myPay Web site are encouraged to take full advantage of the system. Normal operations will return Jan. 17. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. James Endke at 884-6950.

Boat storage

Storage is available in Eglin Air Force Base's temporary storage lot for boat owners who had their boats displaced due to Hurricane Ivan. Fifty slots for boats on trailers are available only to those with identification cards. The boats may be stored through June 1. For more information, call 882-6581.

Book signing

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael DeLong, U.S. Marine Corps, will be at the base library Jan. 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his new book "Inside CentCom: The Unvarnished Truth About the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq." General DeLong is the former deputy commander of the U.S. Central Command. The book includes actions taken by the government and the U.S. military from Sept. 11, 2001, to the fall of Saddam Hussein. For more information, call the library or Sabrina Honda at 884-6266.

Tops in Blue

The Air Force's Tops in Blue performers will provide free entertainment to all government-issued identification card holders Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Freedom Hangar. This year's performance, "Musicology" is a musical mixture of R&B, country, contemporary and big band sounds from the 1940's. For more information, call Chuck Lowrey at 884-2189 or e-mail chuck.lowrey@hurlburt.af.mil.

Retirement column

As of this year, the COMMANDO newspaper will include a monthly retirement column, which will run in the last issue of each month.

All submissions must include: name, rank, squadron and number of years of service and will need to be e-mailed to the COMMANDO inbox at commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Submissions must be received no later than the third Friday of each month. For more information, call the public affairs office at 884-7464.

Disney cruises

Disney Cruise Lines is offering special rates on several cruises for active-duty military personnel. Choose from a three or four-night Bahama cruise with spectacular dining, dancing and adventure at Disney's private island, Castaway Cay. The three-night cruise rate is \$349 per adult with sailing dates through Feb. 10. The four-night cruise rate is \$399 per adult with sailing dates Sunday through Feb. 6. Cruises sail round trip from Port Canaveral, Fla., to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay. Rates are based on double occupancy for standard inside staterooms and subject to availability. For more information, call 581-0469.

MOAA scholarships

Military Officers Association of America is accepting applications for its 2005 Base/Post Scholarship program, which will award 50 scholarship grants of \$1,000 to dependent children of military personnel. For more information or to download an application, visit www.moaa.org.

Essay, art contests

The Hurlburt Field Youth Program is hosting two Armed Services YMCA-sponsored contests now through Feb. 4. Art Contest 2005 is geared to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students in first through twelfth grade are invited to participate in the 2005 Essay Contest. Winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds. Contests are open to dependents of active-duty military and dependents of retired military personnel. For more information, call 884-6355.

Volunteer

MTIs/recruiters

The Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team will visit Hurlburt Field March 9 as an on-going effort to recruit potential military training instructors and recruiters. In addition, the team will brief on other AETC special duty opportunities. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Lester Harvey at DSN (210) 565-0589.

Tax representatives

The base tax center is looking for volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Volunteers should plan on working four hours each week preparing taxes until April 15. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Amanda Fekete at 884-6119 or Bobby Watts at 884-4352.

Dental services

The Eglin Dental Service is accepting applications for the Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Training Program. The program is six months long; the next class begins Monday. For more information, call 883-8324/8325.

Classes

OWCC info sessions

Ocala-Walton Community College will hold health degree information sessions for the Surgical Technology program Jan. 19 and Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. in Room 128 of the Learning Resources Center on the Niceville Campus. For more information, call 729-6444.

HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center. For more information, call 884-4292.

- Healthy Living Workshop** - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.
- Fitness Improvement Program** - Tuesday, 10 a.m.
- Eating Heart Healthy** - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
- Body Composition Improvement Program** - Tuesday, 1 p.m.
- Prenatal Nutrition** - Wednesday, 9 a.m.
- Prenatal Fitness** - Wednesday, 10 a.m.
- Eating for Health** - Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Eye exam

Don't become victim to glaucoma, other eye diseases

Courtesy of the 16th MDG

During January's observance of National Glaucoma Awareness Month, the American Optometric Association reminds Americans to visit an eye care professional regularly.

Regular, comprehensive eye examinations are

the best defense against vision-threatening diseases like glaucoma, a gradual degeneration of cells that make up the optic nerve, which carries visual information from the eye to the brain.

As the nerve cells die, vision is slowly lost, usually beginning in the side - peripheral - vision. Glaucoma's effects on the eyes are slow and usually painless, but the vision loss that occurs is permanent - irreversible.

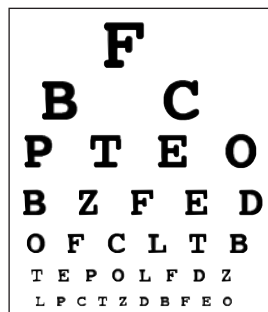
Those at high risk for glaucoma include: African Americans over age 40, everyone over age 60 and individuals with a family history of glaucoma.

There's no cure for the disease, but early detection is the key to controlling glaucoma.

Medicare patients at high risk for glaucoma can receive dilated eye examinations as a benefit of Medicare coverage.

The American Optometry Association provides a Glaucoma/Diabetes hotline program to match patients with a participating optometrist in their area. For more information, call (800) 262-3947 or visit www.aoa.org. To schedule an eye exam call 884-7882.

Source: AOA



Courtesy image

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September - May
Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)

11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)

Religious Education: August - May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Junah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on

TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.



At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.
Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field
Friday and Sunday
Bridget Jones:
The Edge of Reason (R)
Saturday
Alexander (R)

Eglin Air Force Base
Friday
Woman
Thou Art Loosed (R)
Saturday and Sunday
The Incredibles (PG)

For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.
For movie information, visit <http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/hurlburt.htm>.



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CHURCH/FW
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COMMAN-
DO/FIRST B
570954
1 X 3.00